

U.S. Patent App. Serial No. 10/806,870

Examiner: C.T. Cajilig

Art Unit: 3637

Docket: BS030749

AMENDMENTS to the SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraphs [0018], [0020], [0022] and [0024] as follows:

[0018] As illustrated in the perspective side views of the wire channel device 100 of FIGS. 1 and 3, the wire channel device 100 includes an upwardly extending arm 144, a transverse leg 146, and a wire channel 151 having a downwardly extending leg 148, a hooking or channel portion 149, and a rear upwardly extending leg 150. The upwardly extending arm 144 includes a top portion 140, a bottom elbow portion 145, an inner surface 141 (not labeled), and an outer surface 143 (not labeled). The outer surface [[143]] of the top portion 140 includes a projection having a triangular-shaped lip 142. As shown in FIG. 1, upwardly extending arm 144 extends along a complementary surface of the complimentary hooked portion 110 of the lower siding panel 112 and the triangular-shaped lip 142 extends over the lip portion 106 of the upper siding panel 102 such that the triangular-shaped lip 142 engages or "catches" the lip portion 106 of the upper siding panel 102. The transverse leg 146 has a width that is approximate to a width of the rearward facing hook portion 104 of the upper siding panel 102 such that the transverse leg 146 runs substantially parallel to a bottom surface of the rearward facing hook portion 104. The transverse leg 146 downwardly bends at a second outer elbow 147 to form the downwardly extending leg 148 that extends at an angle α towards the arm 144. According to embodiments of this invention the angle α may be from approximately fifteen degrees to seventy five degrees, and in the illustrated embodiments, the angle α is shown at least about fifty degrees. The downwardly extending leg 148 bends at the channel portion 149 up towards the arm 144 to form the rear upward extending leg 150 ~~that extends at another angle towards the arm 106~~. The rear upward extending leg 150 is shorter than the downwardly extending leg [[150]]148, providing an open passageway 153 between an end of the rear upward extending leg 150 and the transverse leg 146 such that one or more wires 130 can pass through the open passageway 153 to an interior of the wire channel 151. According to the illustrated embodiments of FIGS. 1 and 3, the channel portion 149 is rounded or "U"-shaped so that a wire 130 is not pinched by a sharp interior angle. According to alternate embodiments, the wire channel portion 149 may be other shapes, such as, for example, a "V"-shape, a rectangular shape, a polygonal shape, and a non-polygonal shape.

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[0020] FIG. 6 shows a perspective front view of a wire channel device 600 similar to the wire channel device 400 of FIGS. 4-5. FIG. 6 shows the wire channel device 600 may be extruded as a long, continuous member having a cross-section similar to the cross sections shown in FIGS. 1 and 3-5. Here, however, the wire channel device 600 includes a pair of upwardly extending arm 644, each arm 644 having a bent, flat lip 640. The flat lip 640 has an interior angle relative to transverse leg 146 of at least approximately fifteen degrees. These upwardly extending arms 644 may be made of the same material as the upwardly extending arm 144 and lip 142, the transverse leg 146, and/or the wire channel 151 of FIG. 1. Alternatively, these arms 644 may be made of an alternate material, such as, for example, a more pliable or thinner material that easily and flexibly fits between the upper siding panel 102 and the lower siding panel 122. If these arms 644 are made of an alternate material, they would connect via attachment means (not shown) to the transverse leg 146 and could be positioned and attached at any location along the length of the transverse leg 146.

[0022] According to embodiments of this invention, the wire channel device 800 has a length 870 of approximately twelve (12) inches, a channel height 872 of at least about one and a half (1 ½) inches, an arm height 874 of at least about one (1) inch, and a transverse arm 876 width of at least about one (1) inch. Alternatively, as one of ordinary skill in the art appreciates, these measurements may vary so long as the wire channel device fits between the first panel 102 and the second panel 112 to support one or more wires 130 as herein described. Still according to further embodiments, the wire channel device may be made of any type of material, such as a plastic, polymer, and/or metal. If a metal component is used for the wire channel device, then that component may also have a durable finish coating, such as polyurethane powder. Alternatively, the wire channel device ~~wire channel device~~ could be constructed of other suitable materials that can withstand a wide range of temperatures, humidity, moisture, and other environmental and wildlife conditions. For example, the wire channel device may include composite, ceramic glass, crystal, and/or other materials and combination capable of being used as herein described.

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[0024] ~~This invention provides~~ An apparatus and methods of use for a wire channel device that is positioned between an upper siding panel and a lower siding panel along the side of a building and that routes, supports, and/or secures one or more wires. ~~According to embodiments of this invention, the~~ The wire channel device includes an upwardly extending arm, a transverse leg, and a wire channel having a downwardly extending leg, a channel portion, and a rear upwardly extending leg.